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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : C12Q 1/68

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 90/15157

(43) International Publication Date: 13 December 1990 (13.12.90)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US90/03004

(22) International Filing Date: 31 May 1990 (31.05.90)

(30) Priority data:
359,158 31 May 1989 (31.05.89) US

(71) Applicant: GENE-TRAK SYSTEMS [US/US]; 31 New York Avenue, Framingham, MA 01701 (US).

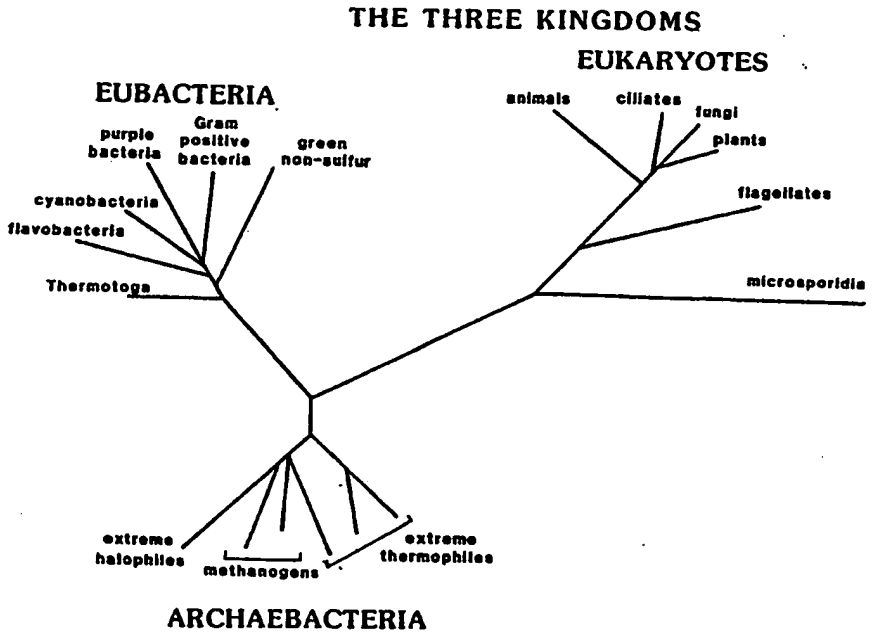
(72) Inventors: LANE, David, J. ; 9 Oriole Drive, Milford, MA 01757 (US). SHAH, Jyotsna ; 13 Bates Drive, Nashua, NH 03060 (US). BUHARIN, Amelia ; 7 Pond Street, Framingham, MA 01701 (US). WEISBURG, William, G. ; 3 Jillson Circle, Milford, MA 01757 (US).

(74) Agent: JANIUK, Anthony, J.; Gene-Trak Systems, 31 New York Avenue, Framingham, MA 01701 (US).

(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent)*, DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).

Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: UNIVERSAL EUBACTERIA NUCLEIC ACID PROBES AND METHODS



(57) Abstract

Nucleic acid probes capable of hybridizing to rRNA of eubacteria and not to rRNA of non-eubacteria are described along with methods utilizing such probes for the detection of eubacteria in clinical and other samples. Preferred embodiments include probes capable of distinguishing between gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.

* See back of page